

## Meetinghouse Council Minutes

September 18, 2023

7 p.m.

Attendees: Andy Ernst, Kevin Eide, Tim Anderson, Paige Didora, Kent Nack, Deborah Eckland, Jeff Lindsay, Sara Wilhelm Garbers, Rick Groomes, Heather Jo Phillips.

7:04 Opened with Devotions

**7:08 Review of Minutes** - Approved

**7:09 Treasurer's Report** - Ted and Jason not present, Deborah passed on report from Ted

- Through August giving: \$151,000; YTD \$443,000 - \$79k ahead of budget
- Total expenses over budget by \$12k for equipment, kickoff
- 82,649k deficit - \$68k better than budgeted
  - YTD deficit is \$179,001
- Hoist the Anchor gave us an additional push
- We are in a stable place

**7:11 Hoist the Anchor Update - Sara**

- Up to \$104k was initially offered by the matching pool
  - Contacted to notify that we reached 73% of the goal
  - Of that, 102,650 of matching pool will be given, more than 73% of the full match

**7:13 Building Use** - Jeff

- Berry Patch going well - started school year - discussed how we can continue to be compatible with each other
- Plans to reclaim/reconfigure some space down in the gathering rooms to continue to be compatible
- When Berry Patch and new Spanish Immersion folks are in the building, the Great Hall is locked
  - From the common, kitchen, and shop hallway
  - Purpose is safety to prevent access to exterior doors
- Spanish Immersion is also using classrooms - going smoothly so far
- Also plans to "re-claim" the nursery
- Trev's wife will be renting space in the old spiritual formation center/former Upper Room offices

**7:19 Reserve Study and Solar Study** - Tim

- Reserve Study that Eric Hansen has commissioned
  - To project capital projects over time for this big building
  - A lot of needs - a bit overwhelming - but the purpose is to be aware of priorities
  - We have access to the consultants for a few more weeks
    - Task Force: Dave Pinsky, Pete Welch, Eric Hansen
    - Will make recommendations about what and when
  - Some of the big ticket items are already being taken into consideration and preliminarily being considered by Foundation
  - Currently there is no capital account for those expenses - ideally would have in the future
- Solar Study

- o Also commissioned by Eric, study of our physical space
- o Consultant Todd Leonard - Apadana Solar
- o Determinants of solar productions size - mainly, do the financials make sense?
- o Roof is large, but it is so steep that it would be extra costly to capture energy
- o \$1.1M up front investment
  - With rebates and other credits \$800k net in first year
  - Over 35 years net revenue of \$2.2M
  - Jason's projection for break even would be 14 years
- o Given current finances, task force recommendation would not be to pursue it

### 7:33 Memorial Scattering Garden - Deborah

- Memorial park on the far side of the bridge where some people scatter ashes
- Policy and procedure has always been that nothing permanent is left there
  - o The rule has been unwritten
  - o During COVID there was less of a watchful eye
  - o Two memorials placed there - a plaque and a stone
  - o What to do - bad precedent but what is the best action?
- People who are caregivers of that space have been around for decades
- There is a plaque in the Fireside Room of folks whose ashes are scattered there
- Meetinghouse Memorial Garden first created in the 1990s
- These two memorials are relatively recent and were discovered by the caregivers of the space
- Consideration for various options for people moving forward versus what should be done retroactively
- Tentative plan
  - o implement new written policy: First used and dedicated in the 1990's, this sacred earth is the final resting place for many who were connected to our congregation. It is not a cemetery, and decorations of a lasting nature are not encouraged. A named plaque to be posted in the Great Hall is available. Gifts towards plants and trees are welcomed. For further information, please contact the church office.
  - o update plaques in the fireside room
  - o Plan: look into new possible space for memorials, continue to encourage or re-implement plaques.

### 7:52 HR update - Jeff Lindsay

- EG is still looking for very part-time help on Sundays and Wednesdays
- Need some ongoing volunteer help in EG also

### 7:53 Visioning - Sara

- Discernment through reforming in the past
- Church-wide congregational survey with folks from the community - this resulted in the five core values
- Plan was to sit in the core values for at least 2-3 years
  - o Then we had additional time due to unforeseen circumstances
- Recently there have been different efforts to check in on the vision among the congregation
- Reviewed two documents - Meetinghouse Vision and Missional Strategies
  - o Data collected from five sources: March 2023 Town Hall, April 2023 Guelich Lecture, Spring 2023 Neighborhood Listening Project, Center for Theology in the Neighborhood, 2022 Mission Survey

- Though there is a representative task force, the goal is to have it be totally congregational
- Subgroup of the task force to work on metrics - ways we can evaluate our ministry programming
- One critical goal is to mobilize our people - there will be ample opportunities to participate and lead

### **8:12 Communications Budget Request - Sara**

- Request for two things together: AV needs based on ideas from Kris plus Patrick and team
  - Equipment needs
    - Sold a sound board so some needs were met without spending
    - Plan for spending over 5 years
- What is the role of the budget in this situation - and how is this need communicated to the congregation?
  - Consideration of whether there is a current budget line item for this
- AV Marketing - some of the videography has already been done, maybe all
  - Digital marketing \$15,900 request can be absorbed if we need to within operating budget, but would like to bring to Foundation
- Motion: **Request to the Foundation for up to \$15,900 for videography - motion passes**
- Motion: **Request to the Foundation for up to 29,500 for Phase 2 - Gathering Room 2 & 3 Microphones (\$3,500), Great Hall Hearing Assist System (\$6,000), Hearth Room Projector (\$20,000) - 5 to 2 vote, motion passes**
  - We will figure out a way to consistently communicate these requests to the congregation
  - This has been our process but doesn't need to be going forward
  - Consider whether the bulb replacement is a better option at this time? Patrick would be open to this if asked

### **8:48 Minister's Report - Sara and Jeff**

- Kickoff Sunday
- Mission Partnerships updated - communicated last Sunday
- Wednesday Night - reboot, especially with adult ed
  - Book studies, thematic studies, our church/congregationalism
- 10/14 - Visioning Retreat + 10/15 - New Member Sunday and Membership Update
- At the end of each month - financial dashboard

### **8:55 Other Business**

- Congregation has not been aware of the Reserve Study
  - Consider how to communicate this

### **8:57 Adjourn**